

Cabinet members who did not attend the State of the Union Address (since 1984)

January 28, 2008	Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne
January 23, 2007	Attorney General Alberto Gonzales
January 31, 2006	Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson
February 2, 2005 -	Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans
January 20, 2004 -	Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans
January 28, 2003-	Attorney General John Ashcroft and Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta
January 29, 2002-	Interior Secretary Gale Norton
February 27, 2001¹-	Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi
January 27, 2000-	Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson
January 19, 1999-	Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew W. Cuomo
January 27, 1998-	Commerce Secretary Bill Daley
February 4, 1997-	Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman
January 30, 1996-	Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala
January 24, 1995-	Transportation Secretary Federico Pena
January 25, 1994-	Agriculture Secretary Mike Epsy
February 17, 1993²-	Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt
January 28, 1992-	Secretary of Agriculture Ed Madigan
January 29, 1991-	Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan
January 31, 1990 -	Veterans Affairs Secretary Edward J. Derwinski

¹This address before a joint session of Congress is not considered an official “State of the Union” message, although President Bush followed the State of the Union tradition of having a cabinet member stay home.

²This address before a joint session of Congress is not considered an official “State of the Union” message, although President Clinton followed the State of the Union tradition of having a cabinet member stay home.

February 9, 1989³- No absent cabinet member

January 25, 1988- Interior Secretary Donald P. Hodel

January 27, 1987- Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng

February 4, 1986- Secretary of Agriculture John Block

February 6, 1985- Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige

January 25, 1984- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Samuel R. Pierce Jr.

Senate Historical Office
January 2008

³This address before a joint session of Congress is not considered an official “State of the Union” message.